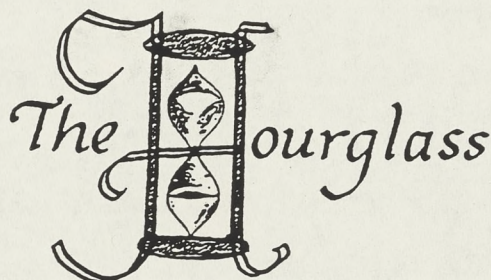


Historical Society of Palm Desert

P.O. Box 77

Palm Desert, CA 92261

(760) 346-6588



Community

Service

Collections

Archives

SUMMER 2001

VOL. 9, NO. 2

LUNCH WITH KAREN SAUSMAN **The Living Desert Reserve Lady**

It is an outdoor classroom for those who would be students of the desert environment. The natural terrain spreads out in a large alluvial fan at the foot of the mountains below Deep Canyon. Before extensive flood control measures were taken, this area formed a basin which was the dumping grounds for gallons of rain water from periodic storms.

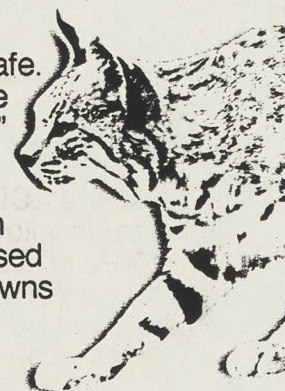
One part of this project was the Philip L. Boyd Desert Research Center, and the other part was a place where the public could get acquainted with the desert's plant and animal life. In 1953 it was maintained by the Palm Springs Desert Museum. There was not a whole lot of support to "preserve the desert" in those days, because all you could see in any direction was desert.

In 1969 a meeting was held at the museum which 70 people attended. The Living Desert Association was formed in 1970 because the refuge needed its own directors, funding.....and, it needed a director. That's when Karen Sausman entered the scene. She was an environmentalist, she was qualified, and she was a woman and single so they didn't have to pay her much. She figured she would give it a try for a couple years -- over 30 years have passed, she's still there!

Karen's title was "Resident Naturalist." She lived in her VW van with a typewriter on a card table as an office -- she had zero overhead. Portola was two paved lanes up to Haystack. The refuge area consisted of vandalized trails, debris was everywhere, and motorcycles zoomed around continually. She was the staff of one, there were 70 members, and the budget was \$9,000.

The first two buildings constructed are now the gift shop and the Meerkat Cafe. Because of the flood threat, Karen asked Lowell Weeks of CVCWD where the flood water would go. His response was, "Any damn where it wants to."

The reserve consists of 360 acres leased from the Coachella Valley Water District since 1953; 640 acres near Eisenhower Mountain leased from Indian Wells since 1976; and 55 acres which connects the other two parcels is leased from the Bureau of Land Management. The only land the reserve actually owns is 80 acres to the south which was gifted to them.



Today the Living Desert Reserve has 11,000 members; serves 600,000 visitors each year, and has a budget of \$6.2 million. Occasionally, various valley cities will make contributions to the organization. Karen says they have always paid their bills and never operate beyond their budget. There are 159 staff members and many volunteers. The permanent wildlifel collection consists of 450 animals.....200 species.

What's in the future? The 18,000 sq. ft. hospital and conservation center for wildlife will be finished by the end of the year. A children's discovery park is in the planning stages. Since the staff is still housed in a trailer, an administrative building is needed. The parking lot will be enlarged and paved with a special material within the next two years.

We thank Karen for agreeing to speak at our Spring Luncheon. She presented us with an interesting, informative and humorous talk on the history of the Living Desert Reserve.

Ed Mullins Picnic in the Park

Dan and BJ Callahan chaired this very successful activity on Sunday, March 4, in the large pavilion at Civic Center Park. It will become an annual event sponsored by the Historical Society in memory of Ed Mullins. Thanks to our public officials who honored us with their presence and willingness to speak to those who attended. They were Jean Benson, Dick Kelly, Bob Spiegel and Buford Crites.

The picnic's special focus was to invite alumni of Palm Desert School (now Washington Charter.) The following people from the good old school days were in attendance:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Jim & Robin Marshall Franklin | • Irene Hardin (mom) |
| • Mary Marshall Pyle (50-60's principal) | • Mike & Sharon Hardin & son |
| • Ewing & Geri Robertson | • Dennis & Karen Hardin Chuck |
| • Warren & Barbara Keedy Eastes | • Gary Olesen (class of 1950) |
| • Carrie Holdsworth Netherly & Kate (daughter) | • Lorelle Taylor Young (class of 1950) |
| • Florence Holdsworth (mom) | • BJ Callahan (taught at WCS for 34 yrs.) |

The Callahans wish to thank their picnic helpers. We certainly appreciate their hard work:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • Pat Scully | • Don & Jane Cameron | • Helen Oliver |
| • Doloris Driskel | • Ed & Adele Ruxton | • Jean Ahrens |
| • Russ Marshall | • Hal & Angie Rover | • Joyce White |
| • Jean Ernst | • Roger & Maria Keezer | • Gary Olesen |
| • Gary Olesen | • Holly & Jean Hollerbeck | • Eleanor Noyes |
| • Mary Noble | • Dick & Ginny Folkers | • Yvonne Kelley |
| • Julie Haas | • Helen Cunningham | • Ann Copeland |

Historical Society Invited to Springfest 2001

The City of Palm Desert invited the Society to set up a booth at the Springfest on Sunday, March 25, at Civic Center Park. Children's pictures were taken with Engine #1, exhibits were on display, raffle tickets were sold, and we got acquainted with citizens and renewed old friendships. Many thanks to those who set up, manned the booth and tore down:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Helen Oliver | • Lois Bradstreet | • Dan & BJ Callahan | • Jean Ernst |
| • Helene Harrison | • Ann Copeland | • Harold & Millie Bird | • Russ Marshall |
| • Mary Helen Kelly | • Yvonne Kelley | • Doloris Driskel & family | • Larry Roberts |
| • Ed & Adele Ruxton | • Bruce Hagerman | • Dick & Ginny Folkers | • Roger Keezer |

Please join us at our booth next year. It's a great way to interact with others in the community. It will be the 10th anniversary of Springfest - a spectacular celebration is planned!!

NEW MEMBERS

Patron: Carolyn Mene (Stewart Title Co.)

Contributing: Douglass & Kathleen Kopp

Individual and Family:

Ernie & Jan DeMarbiex
 Darlene Goins
 L. Carolyn Fisher
 Thomas & Kelly Flanagan
 Liz & Viola Lancellotti
 Laura McCandless
 Gary & Janell Morris
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bowling
 Richard B. Farmer, Ph.D. (Foundation,
 for Retarded of the Desert)
 William Young
 Mr. & Mrs. Rod Kinnell
 Paul Crowley
 Dan Lanager (PFF Bank)
 Lillian Phillips

We Hold in Loving Memory

Edwin Lundquist
 Marian Miller
 Bill Phillips

New Membership Roster

We will be working over the summer to put together a new membership roster. If you would like your e-mail address and/or your FAX number added along with your address and phone number please call the office at 346-6588 on Mon./Tues./Thurs. from 10 till 3 during the month of June.

2001 Membership Dues

Have you paid your's yet? They are due on April 1st of each year. Mail your check to:

Historical Society of Palm Desert

P. O. Box 77

Palm Desert, CA 92261

Individual.....\$15	Contributing....\$100
Family.....\$20	Patron.....\$250
Business/Organizations.....	
1st year.....\$75	Renewal.....\$50
Life.....\$1,000	

Are Bats Rodents?

I thought they were until our Society secretary, Helen Oliver, corrected me. Just because they look like furry little mice with wings, I put them in the rodent category. Actually, they are animals that are more closely related to monkeys. Bats are the only mammals that can fly. They are even more dependent on flying than birds, because the bat's legs and feet are not suitable for walking. A web of thin skin is connected to the bats long fingers, arms, legs and body. This skin forms the wings.

A thousand species of bats live all over the world except in the very cold polar regions. The small creatures we see flitting around in the evening skies in the desert like to eat gnats. They devour billions of insects at night and sleep during the day. Like all mammals, the young are born alive and feed on milk from their mothers. They may have two to four babies a year, and they have a life span of about 10 years.

Some people think bats are bad luck. If they keep the population of those pesky little gnats down in the Coachella Valley, I welcome their presence.

Making Progress

During the past months we have been making plans to expand. Thanks to the City's Public Works Dept., the Clifford Henderson files were moved from the west wing to the east wing of the fire station. Next fall we will offer exhibits in the west wing for the enjoyment and education of the public. We welcome your suggestions and ideas.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/zip _____

Phone _____

_____ I am interested in being a volunteer.

Founder's Day

On May 15, 2001 Councilman Robert Spiegel became the 20th person to receive a Founder's Day plaque and have his name plate attached to the Society's impressive trophy. Since he came to the desert as manager of the first store at Palm Desert Town Center, the May Company, Bob has been involved in an amazing number of community service projects. These are enumerated in the following poem depicting his life and career.

Bob Spiegel is the man
We're honoring today.
His community service
We will put on display.

His family includes:
Vivacious wife, Sharon,
Two sons and a daughter,
Also six grandchildren.

Raised in St. Louis, MO.
His long career began
With the May Company,
As assistant buying man.

After working ten years,
California beckoned.
May Co. - Los Angeles,
"This is good," he reckoned.

Then came a promotion,
Now overseeing seven.
Transferred to snowy east,
A move out of heaven.

He requested the job
At P.D. Town Center.
Under his leadership,
It couldn't be better.

Thirty-two years with May,
Time for a career change.
Community service
Was finally within range.

First C.O.D. Foundation,
As Founding President;
Shelter from the Storm board;
From place to place he went.

Civic Arts Commission,
Art in Public Places,
The Planning Commission.
Hitting all the bases.

The Senior Center board.
A City Council chair;
The citizens voted
To keep Bob Spiegel there.

This special Founder's Day,
We witness a life shared.
Bob has earned this award,
He has a heart that cared.

Even with such a list, we didn't cover everything. Bob has been active on the C.V. Recreation & Park District board. He was also instrumental in founding the City's Business Support Center, a real boon to existing and potential area businesses. When you see Bob, congratulate him for his volunteer service to the citizens of Palm Desert.

Born Too Soon!

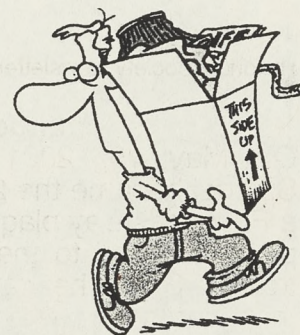
*When I was a student,
I was quiet.
I didn't protest,
I didn't riot,
I wasn't obscene.
I made no demands
On prexy or dean.
I sat in on no sit ins,
I heckled no speaker,
I broke not a window;
Few students were meeker.
I am forced to admit,
With some hesitation,
All I got out of school
Was an education !*

- by Richard Armour

The straight and narrow path
has no traffic jams.

.....
Many speakers need no introduction,
just a conclusion.
.....

A friend is one who runs interference for
you in your pursuit of happiness.



Sale



Saturday, September 22, 2001

Sale starts 7:30 a.m.-?



at the Historical Society of Palm Desert

Fire House

72-861 El Paseo

(760) 346-6588

PLEASE HELP with donations of books & magazines, working appliances, computers, office equipment, furniture, works of art, antiques, even automobiles, boats & trailers.

EXCEPT soft goods, clothing & shoes.

Small items can be dropped off Monday, Tuesday & Thursday - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. April, May & June.

Office will be closed July & August.

Large items will be picked up after September 4.

Call Gary at 345-4443

All donations are tax deductible.

A receipt will be furnished upon request.

Things a Good Docent Should Know

SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS

The San Jacinto Mountain range is located east of Palm Springs. In less than seven horizontal miles, it is the steepest escarpment in North America; being 10,804 feet above seal level and 10,000 feet above the desert floor. The Santa Rosa Mountains on the south and the San Jacinto Mountains on the north form a ring around the Coachella Valley. The San Geronio Pass is located to the north of the San Jacinto Mountains. Their elevation is much less than the latter.

Scientists believe this mountain range was formulated about 100 million years ago, when molten material from the earth's center moved toward the surface. Then, 20 million years ago, the San Andreas Fault formed; the Pacific Plate on the west side pushed beneath the North American Plate. The movement of the hot interior of the earth jostled the plates, causing the North American plate to melt and spew out lava through openings known as volcanoes.

What is the origin of the name? Rancho San Jacinto (St. Hyacinth) was founded between 1816 and 1821 by Dominican friars. The name was first used on a map in 1853. The San Jacinto Mountains encompasses more than 11,000 acres in a range that is 800 miles long extending down the length of Baja and including the San Geronio Pass. San Jacinto is the second highest peak in California.

Historical Society of Palm Desert
P. O. Box 77
Palm Desert, CA 92261

Other interesting facts about the San Jacinto Mountains: The Cahuilla Indians inhabited the area 3000 years ago and made use of all the native plants. Birds, mountain lions, coyotes, and three black bears were also known to live in this area. In 1775, around the time of the Spanish explorers, grizzly bears and jaguars lived in the mountains. The grizzly was hunted to extinction by 1895. The jaguar was in the southwest part of the state until 1826, the last one being killed in 1860 near Palm Springs.

- most of this information was garnered from Jim Cornett's column in the Desert Sun

DON'T FORGET.....

.....to gather up things we can sell in our fire house (garage) sale..... we are starting to collect these items NOW. If you need things picked up, leave a message on the office phone ---- 346-6588. For details see page 5.

.....if you have not paid your 2001 dues, please do it TODAY.

.....the office will be closed during July & August, but you can always put a message on the office phone. Call and say, "I'd like to volunteer in the Fall!" We have summer projects too.

Have a wonderful, restful, happy summer.
Hourglass editor,
Ginny Folkers

